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SUBJECT: MORE ON THE PERFECTION OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND THE
NEW CONSTITUTION

1. FAMILIAR SOVIET CONCEPTS OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY WERE
ONCE AGAIN STATED IN AN "IZVESTIYA" JULY 12 ARTICLE BY
A. SHEBANOV ENTITLED "PERFECTION OF DEMOCRACY--THE
NATURAL RESULT OF DEVELOPED SOCIALISM." STARTING WITH
THE FALSE PREMISE THAT "SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY EXIST
IN A STATE OF DIALECTICAL UNITY," SHEVANOV ENUMERATED RECENT
LEGISLATION ADOPTED IN THE USSR TO PERFECT AND FURTHER
DEVELOP SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY BY ADJUSTING STATE AND SOCIAL
RELATIONS TO REFLECT THE NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES OF A
MATURE SOCIALIST SOCIETY. THIS WORK IS TO BE CULMINATED
IN THE ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH WILL SUMMARIZE
THE CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND INCORPORATE THEM INTO
FUNDAMENTAL LAW AS GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALIST
DEMOCRACY. "ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
THE PROJECT FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION," DECLARED SHEBANOV,
"WILL BE THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACH."

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2. JUDGING BY THE TRENDS OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY DIS-

CUSSED BY SHEBANOV, THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BROADEN--
AT LEAST IN THE FORMAL SENSE--THE ROLE OF REPUBLIC AND
LOCAL SOVIETS AND OF SOCIAL ZRGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS
TRADE UNIONS, IN "MANAGING ALL AFFAIRS OF STATE AND
SOCIETY," INCLUDING THE ECONOMIC SECTOR. AT THE SAME
TIME, THE LEGAL BASIS AND "STABILITY OF SOVIET
LEGALITY" WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL TO ISSUE A NEW CODE OF LAWS FOR
THE SOVIET STATE.

3. THE ARTICLE STRESSES ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND MASS-
PARTICIPATION ASPECTS OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY, BUT THERE
IS ALSO SOME EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGALITY AS
A SHIELD FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS: "... EACH CITIZEN
WHO RESPECTS AND OBSERVES THE LAW IS ENTITLED TO THE
STATE'S PROTECTION. THEREFORE THE REALITY OF RIGHTS
AND FREEDOMS, ALONG WITH ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND
SOCIAL GUARANTEES, IS SECURED BY JURIDICAL GUARANTEES,
THE EXTENT AND SCOPE OF WHICH HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY
IN RECENT YEARS."

4. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE'S DISCUSSION OF THE NEW CON-
STITUTION AND LEGAL CODE AS THE CULMINATING ACHIEVEMENTS
OF BREZHNEV'S WORK SUGGESTS THAT BREZHNEV HOPES TO BE
AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO PRESIDE OVER THE ADOPTION OF
BOTH, ALTHOUGH NEITHER APPEARS IMMINENT. THE ARTICLE,
OF COURSE, REFLECTS THE SENSITIVITY OVER THE ISSUE OF
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS CHARACTERISTIC OF RECENT SOVIET
ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT.
MATLOCK

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